

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] Locking mechanism 306 comprises a combination or key-operated lock, similar to many adjustable locking devices in common use today. Examples of manufacturers offering such a locking mechanism include ABA locks of Taipei Hsien, Taiwan (~~[www.abalocks.com](http://www.abalocks.com)~~) and Royal Lock Corporation of Wauconda, Illinois. Locking mechanism 306 typically comprises a spring-loaded deadbolt which engages a series of notches 318 located on adjustable portion 316. In an unlocked position, the deadbolt is pushed into a shank portion of locking mechanism 306 as each of notches 318 pass the deadbolt, thereby allowing free movement of adjustable portion 316 within fixed portion 314 and, thus, allowing an opening formed by adjustable shackle 304 to vary. In a locked position, the deadbolt is prevented from being pushed out of notches 318, thereby preventing the opening formed by adjustable shackle 304 from varying.